

LESSON 10

HAMZAH AND UMAR ACCEPT ISLAM

Sixth Year of Prophethood

Rasulullah's uncle, Hamzah, was only two years older than he was. Hamzah had close, friendly relations with his nephew. Hamzah was a powerful man. He enjoyed hunting and sports. He loved Muhammad (S) but did not seriously think of accepting Islam.

Once, Abu Jahl, the great enemy of Islam, insulted Rasulullah (S). When Hamzah heard of Abu Jahl's behaviour he became furious. He said to himself, "If Muhammad is right, I must support him." He first went to Abu Jahl and warned him to behave in the future. He then went to Rasulullah (S) and accepted Islam. Hamzah was very influential in Makkah and was a courageous person. The Prophet (S) was delighted by Hamzah's conversion to Islam.

Umar was another important covert to Islam. He was an archenemy of Islam. He was an important Arab leader, known for his fearlessness and courage. He also had an uncontrollable temper. Rasulullah (S) knew the weaknesses of Umar but he appreciated his great qualities and knew how that could be used for the cause of Islam. He prayed to Allah, "O Allah, help the cause of Islam through Umar, son of al-Khattab."

Umar had an intense dislike for Rasulullah (S) and his mission. Although other *Kuffar* would not dare to kill Rasulullah(S), Umar decided to kill him by himself.

He came out of his house with a sword in his hand. On his way, he learned that his sister and brother-in-law had become Muslims. He got so angry that he went to their house to teach them a lesson. When Umar reached their house, they, with another *Sahabi*, were reciting the Quran. When they learned that Umar had come they hid the Quran and their friend the *Sahabi*.

Umar was so enraged that he went inside the house and started whipping both his brother-in-law and his sister. Both of them were bleeding but kept on saying, "Yes, we are Muslims. You may kill us, but we shall never give up Islam."

Umar got tired of beating them. He was also impressed by their faith. He decided to listen to the Quran. His sister told him that the Quran is the holy word of Allah. Umar had to clean himself first before reading the Quran. Umar now wanted so much to know about the teachings of the Quran that he agreed to take a bath. The bath not only made Umar's body clean but prepared his heart to receive Allah's guidance. His brother-in-law recited Surah TaHa.

When Umar heard the Quran, his heart trembled with fear. He knew it was not a human creation. Its language was perfect and its teachings were pure. When he heard the verse, "Lo, I indeed, I alone am Allah, there is no god except Me, so serve Me," Umar could resist the power of Quran no more. He cried aloud, "It is not man-made. It is perfect and beautiful."

When the Sahabi who was hiding heard these words his heart jumped with joy. He came out of hiding running. "Congratulations Umar," he said. "I have heard Rasulullah (S) pray to Allah for your faith."

Umar said, "La ilaha illa Allah" and accepted Islam.

Umar now wanted to go to Rasulullah (S) and declare his faith openly. So from there he went straight to the house of Arqam, a Sahabi of Rasulullah (S). This house was used by Rasulullah (S) as a school for teaching Islam. This small house was, in fact, the first university of Islam.

As Umar approached the house his sword was still in his hand. When the Sahabah (R) saw him coming, they feared trouble. The newly converted Hamzah (R) said, "Let him come. If his intention is not good, I will remove his head from his body with his own sword."

Rasulullah (S) could see the change of heart in Umar. He received Umar with affection and said, "What is your intention, O Umar!"

He replied, "My intention is to accept Islam, O Rasulullah!"

All the Muslims were pleased. Umar said Shahadah and accepted Islam.

Umar (R) was a very strong and influential person. His support strengthened the ranks of Muslims. Rasulullah (S) called him *al-Faruq*, the one who distinguishes between the truth and falsehood. Umar al-Faruq later became the second Khalifah of Islam. Hamzah (R) died in the battle of Uhud fighting for the cause of Allah.

With Hamzah (R) and Umar (R) in the ranks of Islam, the Muslims felt secure. They declared, "We shall offer our *Salat* in Kabah openly." Hamzah (R) and Umar (R) led the party of Muslims to Kabah and offered *Salat* openly. the *Kuffar* were enraged and attacked the Muslims. But now the Muslims could fight back. The *Kuffar* finally had to accept the rights of Muslims to worship Allah in the Kabah.

Points of Review:

1. Hamzah (R) and Umar (R) accepted Islam.
2. Now the ranks of the Muslims were greatly strengthened.
3. Hamzah (R) and Umar (R) led the Muslims to Kabah and offered *Salat* openly.

Words to remember:

al-Faruq, Khalifah, Shahadah

Important names

Abu Jahl, Hamzah (R), Umar al-Faruq (R)

Quranic Study

Read *Surah TaHa* 20:1-14. What is the message which made the heart of Umar (R) tremble?